

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM

CROPPED AREAS LEFT FOR WILDLIFE

WHAT:

Normal crop production is utilized to create the equivalent of an annual food plot for wildlife by leaving a minimum of five percent of the selected grain crop acreage un-harvested. This enhancement is allowed only for the grain crops of corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, or wheat. Annual enhancement payments are made on the un-harvested acreage only.

WHEN:

Crops to be left un-harvested are planted during the normal planting period for the designated crop. Un-harvested areas are to be left standing and undisturbed throughout the winter until 30 days prior to the next planting period (grains except wheat), or through the summer (wheat). This enhancement is performed each year following selection and scheduling in the contract.

WHERE:

Any approved grain crop field may be considered to have eligible areas for this enhancement under the following conditions:

- a. At least some portion of the un-harvested area must be immediately adjacent to either woody cover or an area of native warm season grasses to maximize safe utilization by wildlife. The cover must be at least one acre in size.
- b. Each un-harvested area in its entirety will be within 500 feet of cover.

Locations of un-harvested areas are allowed to be changed from year to year if proximity to cover requirements is met.

HOW:

The entire grain field must be treated uniformly for production. Normal seeding rates, planting methods, weed control, etc. are applied for the planned un-harvested area in conjunction with requirements or planting methods of the crop field (i.e. if the field is required to be no-till planted, the planned un-harvested area will be no-till planted). Grain crop fields in sod based rotation are eligible for this enhancement, but the scheduled amount of area for this enhancement must be established to the approved grain crop and un-harvested during the sod years.

HOW MUCH:

For each field considered for this enhancement, a minimum of five percent and not to exceed 10 percent of the field acreage, must be left un-harvested. Multiple small areas of un-harvested crops within a field are permissible, but each individual area shall not be smaller than one percent of the field acreage.

The CSP Enhancement payment is \$100 per acre per year of standing crop left for wildlife, not to exceed 5% of the field acres.